

Message Text

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12
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 /109 W
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R 231640Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3175
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1495

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, XL, GY
SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE AND DESTABILIZATION

REF: GEORGETOWN 1391

SUMMARY: DURING THE 12TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMMON-
WEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA), PM BURNHAM URGED
CPA TO INCLUDE TOPICS OF CARIBBEAN POLITICAL UNITY AND SUGGESTED
DELEGATES CONSIDER WHETHER WESTMINISTER PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM REMAINS
RELEVANT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUBSEQUENTLY GUYANESE DELEGATE
LED DISCUSSION OF DESTABILIZATION BUT GAVE NO SPECIFICS TO SUPPORT
PREVIOUS ALLEGATIONS OTHER THAN ASSERTION THAT GUYANA HAD BECOME A
TARGET FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES BECAUSE IT SEEKS END TO EXPLOITATIVE
GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS. WE HAVE NOTICED DECREASE IN DESTABILIZATION
TALK RECENTLY AND HAVE HEARD COMMENTS INDICATING THAT ANNOUNCEMENT
OF AID-FINANCED CANJE BRIDGE CONTRACT FURTHER UNDERCUT CREDIBILITY
OF SUCH ALLEGATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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1. PM BURNHAM GAVE THE FEATURE ADDRESS AT THE 12TH REGIONAL

CONFERENCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) LAST WEEK, URGING THE CPA TO INCLUDE THE TOPICS OF CARIBBEAN POLITICAL UNITY AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE REGION'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEMS IN ITS DISCUSSIONS. REGARDING THE FORMER, THE PM STATED THAT "POLITICAL UNITY MUST BE ACHIEVED IN ORDER THAT BOTH THE REGION AND ITS PEOPLE SHOULD SURVIVE".

2. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT THE WESTMINISTER PARLIAMENTARY MODEL WAS NOT TOTALLY RELEVANT TO THE CARIBBEAN, AND THAT WHILE CERTAIN BASIC ASPECTS OF THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, THE GOVTS OF THE REGION SHOULD SEEK TO CREATE SYSTEMS "RELEVANT TO RESPECTIVE SITUATIONS, GEARED TO ENCOURAGE MASS PARTICIPATION IN PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS". HE ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER THE PERIODIC ELECTIONS IN THE BRITISH-TYPE SYSTEM ADEQUATELY ALLOWED FOR SUCH POPULAR INVOLVEMENT IN GOVT.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE DESTABILIZATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS LED BY THE HEAD OF GUYANA'S DELEGATION. HE CHARGED THAT "WE HAVE BECOME THE TARGET FOR DESTABILIZATION BECAUSE WE HAVE SOUGHT TO BRING TO AN END AN EXPLOITATIVE GLOBAL RELATIONSHIP". HE OFFERED, HOWEVER, NO SPECIFICS BUT INSTEAD DESCRIBED GUYANA'S EFFORTS TO FREE ITSELF FROM IMPERIALISM.

4. COMMENT: THE PM'S CRITICISM OF THE WESTMINISTER-TYPE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM SEEMS TO INDICATIVE OF CHANGES HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE LOCALLY. THE CPA, HOWEVER, DID NOT ACCEPT HIS SUGGESTION FOR ADDITIONS TO ITS AGENDA SINCE IT CONSIDERED SUCH TOPICS TO BE NON GERMANE TO ITS PURPOSE (REFTEL). GUYANA RECEIVED ONLY LUKEWARM SUPPORT FROM MOST OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS FOR ITS DESTABILIZATION CHARGES. MOST OF THE DELEGATES WOULD AGREE ONLY THAT SMALL STATES WERE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO INFLUENCE FROM LARGER POWERS AND SO MUST KEEP ALERT TO AVOID EXTERNAL PRESSURES. THE GUYANESE CPA PARTICIPANTS DID NOT APPEAR TO PUSH THE DESTABILIZATION THEME WITH VIGOR DURING THE CONFERENCE, NOR WAS IT PLAYED UP FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION AS IT HAD BEEN IN THE PAST. POSSIBLY THIS WAS IN DEFERENCE TO TALKS ON THAT AND OTHER SUBJECTS BEING HELD CONCURRENTLY IN BRAZIL BY FONMIN WILLS. WE HAVE NOTED OF LATE A DECREASE IN THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF THE DESTABILIZATION CHARGES. THIS MAY INDICATE THAT SOME OF THE GOG OFFICIALS WHO BELIEVED THESE
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ALLEGATIONA ARE NOW DOUBTING THEIR VALIDITY. IN PRIVATE, SEVERAL GOG OFFICIALS HAVE USED THE WORDS "POSTURING" AND "MIRAGE" WHEN THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED WITH THEM BY EMBOFFS. ONE OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD US THAT THE SIGNING OF THE AID SPONSORED CANJE BRIDGE CONTRACT AND THE PUBLICITY OF IT HAD DONE MUCH TO DISPELL PUBLIC SUSPICION US WAS ENGAGED IN DESTABILIZATION HERE
BLACKEN

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